

# NEBRASKA STATE FIRE MARSHAL OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION



**Interpretation Number:** 07-02

**Date:** 01-08

**Pamphlet Number:** NFPA 101, 2000 ed.

**Section(s):** 18, 19.2.2.2.4

**Comments:**

This interpretation is in compliance with CMS requirements. It replaces the previous interpretation dated 07-07. It does not apply to Ambulatory Surgical Centers or Assisted Living Facilities.

**Question:** Are doors in a means of egress in a health care occupancy permitted to be locked?

**Response:** Yes, as specified below.

Door-locking arrangements are permitted in health care occupancies or portions of health care occupancies where the clinical needs of the patients require specialized security measures for their safety.

Special door-locking arrangements can be either manual locks or electronic locks which include card readers, key pads, and delayed-egress locks. Special door-locking arrangements are acceptable provided the following criteria are met:

1. The card to operate the electronic lock is available to all staff, visitors and patients that do not require specialized security measures for their safety. Card readers are permitted when all staff members carry the card to operate the card reader device.
2. The code to release the electronic lock is available to all staff, visitors and patients that do not require specialized security measures for their safety. The code for releasing electronic locked doors must be posted. The code may be posted at the reception desk or on the wall adjacent to the code reader release device on either side of the locked door.
3. Special door-locking arrangements that incorporate card reader/key pad or delayed-egress must automatically unlock the electronic locks upon activation of the building fire-protective signaling systems or automatic sprinkler systems or loss of power to the part of access control systems that unlock the doors.
4. Manual locks are permitted when all staff members carry the key(s) to operate the locks. Only one such locking device is permitted on each door.
5. Doors that include delayed-egress locks are permitted without restriction when all of the requirements of 7.2.1.6.1 are met. These requirements include signage at the door, fire sprinklers or fire detection systems installed throughout the building and a limit of one delayed-egress locking device in any single path of egress.
- 5a. Operation of the delayed-egress lock shall override any other lock and permit egress when more than one locking device is present. The delayed-egress feature will allow a combination keypad card reader and/or bracelet locking system to be on the door.

**Signature:**

**Date:** 1-21-09

**Title:** John E. Falgione, State of Nebraska Fire Marshal